

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 DODE-00
ERDA-05 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /104 W
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R 201240Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9690
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0539

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BR
SUBJ: BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEBATE: GERMAN AMBASSADOR AGAIN JOINS THE
FRAY

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 221, (B) 76 BRASILIA 9622

1. SUMMARY. AGAIN THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL HAS AFFIRMED THAT THE FRG WILL BROOK NO THIRD-COUNTRY INTERFERENCE IN THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH THIS ATTITUDE DOES NOT PREVENT "CLARIFICATIONS." HE ALSO SAID THE FRG WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE PEACEFUL CHARACTER OF THE AGREEMENT. WHETHER RODING IS FREE-WHEELING OR FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS, HIS PERSISTENCE IN TALKING TO THE PRESS WILL MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE FRG TO REIN IN ANY UNHELPFUL GOB PUBLIC STATEMENTS SHOULD THE FRG WANT TO DO THIS AT A FUTURE DATE. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON JAN. 12, IN AN OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO US CRITICISMS, WEST GERMANY'S AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL REITERATED THAT WEST GERMANY WOULD NOT PERMIT THIRD COUNTRY INTERFERENCE IN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TWO PARTIES, ACCORDING TO GAZETA MERCANTIL (JAN. 13). THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN AS MANY WEEKS THAT AMBASSADOR RODING HAS BEEN QUOTED IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS AS EXPRESSING THIS POSITION. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, HE

QUALIFIED IT SLIGHTLY: "THIS ATTITUDE OF INDEPENDENCE DOES NOT PREVENT BOTH PARTIES FROM FURNISHING, TOGETHER OR SEPARATELY, CLARIFICATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OR OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE REAL OBJECTIVES OF GERMAN-BRAZILIAN ATOMIC COOPERATION," ACCORDING TO GAZETA'S REPORT OF RODING'S REMARKS TO A GROUP OF 40 EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS VISITING BRAZIL.

3. "IMPROPER" WAS HOW RODING REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED DOUBTS IN CERTAIN US SECTORS ABOUT THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO GAZETA, THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BRAZIL HAD NOT SIGNED THE NPT, IT HAD MADE CLEAR SEVERAL TIMES "IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORUMS" BRAZIL'S INTENTION NOT TO FABRICATE NUCLEAR DEVICES. RODING REPORTEDLY CITED AS ONE EXAMPLE BRAZIL'S SIGNATURE OF THE TLATELOLCO TREATY.

4. RODING REVEALED, ACCORDING TO GAZETA, THAT THERE ALREADY EXIST CONTACTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLAINING THE PEACEFUL CHARACTER OF THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT. RODING GAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO'S CORRESPONDENT IN WEST GERMANY, WILLIAM WAACK, REPORTED IN A JAN. 14 COLUMN THAT THE FRG'S FOREIGN MINISTRY "ADMITTED" THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH CONTACTS, BUT IT TOO WOULD GIVE NO FURTHER DETAILS. ACCORDING TO WAACK, THE MINISTRY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE TEXT OF RODING'S REMARKS, AND IT "EVIDENTLY HAD BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE" BY THEM. WAACK QUOTED AN UNNAMED MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING, "I THINK CONFIDENTIAL

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WE HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN ENOUGH ABOUT THIS SUBJECT AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO SAY UNTIL CARTER IS INAUGURATED."

5. WAACK WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN NOVEMBER DEPUTY HORST EHMKE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S LEFT WING HAD BEEN SENT TO THE US TO REVIVE CONTACTS WITH THE CARTER TEAM, AND NOT ESPECIALLY TO ADDRESS THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT ALTHOUGH THE TOPIC WAS DISCUSSED. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, ACCORDING TO UNIDENTIFIED FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES CITED BY WAACK, HAD BEEN IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH THE VICE-PRESIDENT-ELECT, WHO "IS CONSIDERED IN WEST GERMANY TO BE ONE OF THE STRONGEST OPPONENTS TO NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH BRAZIL."

6. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED ON A STUDY DONE FOR THE FRG'S MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WHICH HAD CONCLUDED THAT A SERIOUS NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT IN WEST GERMANY COULD CAUSE 30 MILLION DEATHS.

7. COMMENT. WHETHER RODING IS FREE-WHELLING OR FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS, HIS PERSISTENCE IN TALKING TO THE PRESS WILL MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE FRG TO REIN IN ANY UNHELPFUL GOB PUBLIC STATEMENTS SHOULD THE FRG WANT TO DO THIS AT A FUTURE DATE. DISINGENUOUS IS PERHAPS THE MOST CHARITABLE WAY TO DESCRIBE RODING'S REFERENCE TO BRAZILIAN SIGNATURE OF THE TLATELOLCO TREATY SINCE BRAZIL'S RATIFICATION NEVER HAS ENTERED INTO EFFECT AND BRAZIL SPECIFICALLY RESERVED PNE RIGHTS.

8. DESPITE PROTESTATIONS TO US BY THE GERMAN EMBASSY THAT ON TWO OCCASIONS AMBASSADOR RODING HAS BEEN GROSSLY MISQUOTED IN THE PRESS (REFTELS), THE GERMAN EMBASSY SEEMS NOT TO HAVE BEEN SO DISTURBED THAT IT ISSUED ANY CLARIFICATIONS TO THE PRESS.
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